3. Increase in fine amount.

4. Educating passenger against falling prey to such touts.

5. Checking of movement of unauthorized taxies by Traffic Police.

Assistance to AP under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

*365. SHRI SAYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh State Government have asked the Centre to enhance the allocation of Rs.8000 crore per year under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in the next five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Central Assistance (CA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) is provided for irrigation projects on year to year basis keeping in view the ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission for the state as a whole and the budget provisions made by the state Government in the State budget during that particular year for the projects posed for CA under the Programme. The States are required to submit proposal (for new and for ongoing projects under AIBP) for CA on year to year basis.

Variations in rates of VAT between States

*366. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some variations in rates of VAT between State-to-State still exist due to some of the decisions taken by the Empowered Committee;

(b) if so, the details of decisions because of which there is a variation in VAT rates in some of the States;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the States have deviated from the EC approved rate structure;

(d) if so, the details of States which have deviated from this; and

(e) what action the Ministry is taking or proposed to take to persuade the States to follow the EC approved VAT structure?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The State VAT, being a tax on sale or purchase of goods within a State, is